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Testimony: **Raised Bill No. 353 AN Act Concerning Opioid  
Abuse**

Public Health Committee

March 7, 2016

Good Morning: Good Morning: Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter  
and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of  
the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA).

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government  
Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association. I speak in  
support of **Raised Bill No. 353 AN Act Concerning Opioid Abuse with one  
strong suggestion.**

**The Connecticut Nurses Association is a founding member of Health  
Assistance Intervention.** HAVEN is the sole health InterVention  
assistance program authorized by state law to serve virtually all  
licensed healthcare professionals. HAVEN offers a confidential  
alternative to "public disciplinary action for professionals suffering  
from chemical dependency, emotional or behavioral disorder, or  
physical or mental illness."

HAVEN provides a safe environment for coordinating educational, rehabilitative, and supportive services to healthcare professionals.

HAVEN is an independent non-profit corporation founded by the Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut Nurses Association, Connecticut State Dental Association, Connecticut Veterinary Medicine Association and Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants that provides confidential consultation and support to healthcare professionals facing health concerns related to alcoholism, substance abuse, behavioral or mental health issues and/or physical illness.

HAVEN is dedicated to serving over 140,000 licensed healthcare professionals through monitoring, support and advocacy with dignity, respect, and confidentiality as allowed by law.

We are recommending The Executive Director or their designee, should be a member of the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council. This individual will bring a depth of knowledge related to this specific area.

Therefore I urge you to **support Raised Bill No. 353 AN Act Concerning Opioid Abuse** with the addition of The Executive Director of HAVEN or their designee, the Connecticut Nurses Associations strongly recommends this addition.

Thank you

Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN

Chair, Government Relation, Connecticut Nurses Association

Professor Emeritus Central Connecticut State University